Workers transferred from Chitra Colliery (Bihar)

1253. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many workmen have so far been transferred from Chitra Colliery (Bihar) of Eastern Coalfields Limited during the current year;

(b) what are the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the management have handed over the work of Chitra Colliery to a contractor; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) As many as 361 workers have been transferred to other collieries since April this year.

(b) Because of the exhaustion of coal reserves in some of the workings, workers employed in Incline I of the Chitra Colliery had become surplus. Now they have been transferred for gainful employment to new workings in the area.

(c) No, Sir: Only certain heavy earth moving machineries have been hired from contractors for overburden removal, but all coal winning is done departmentally.

(d) Does not arise.

Investament decision on Mangalore Refinery

1254. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that investment decision on Mangalore Refinery by Public Investment Board has been deferred;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Refinery Project is likely to be delayed as a result thereof; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to avoid the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) The investment decision has to be taken by the Government. The matter is under consideration.

Poothee-Balihari Coalmine Project

1255. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rs. 200 crores Poothee-Balihari coalmine project with World Bank help is running two year behind schedule;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefore; and

(c) what steps are being taken to accelerate the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The project is running about 2 years behind schedule. The main reasons for delay of this project are:—

(1) Delay in acquisition of land;

(2) slow progress of shaft sinking due to bad strata conditions and heavy seepage of water.

(c) For expediting the acquisition of balance land required for the project the matter has been taken up with the State Government. Steps have been taken up to accelerate the speed of shaft sinking by providing additional inputs and by strengthening of organisation at this project. For this purpose services of Polish experts have also taken to oversee the sinking operation.

Cancellation of Gas Connections

1256. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cooking gas connection is cancelled if the consumer does not get refilled the cylinder within a period of six months: